

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
FACULTY COUNCIL**

These minutes have been approved.

A regular meeting of Faculty Council was held at 11:30 am, Tuesday, June 24, 2014 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: H. Ali-Hassan, H. Andreas, W. Barker, S. Bearne, K. Beazley, P. Bodorik, B. Boudreau, E. Denovan-Wright, P. Ellis, A. Fenety, M. Gibson, D. Groulx, J. Kozey, M. Leonard, R. Martin-Misener, P. O'Brien, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, M. Rahman, M. Scott (FGS), R. Singer (Chair), R. Stadnyk, S. Stone, O. Theou, S. Theriault (Secretary), H. Whitehead

Regrets: A. Bucci, S. Faridi, L. Fitting, S. Kimber, N. Morgunov, F. Palermo, S. Ponomarenko, G. Scherkoske, L. Spiteri, D. Tamlyn, Y. Zhao

FC13/14.78 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by S. Parcell, seconded by B. Boudreau: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for June 24, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC13/14.79 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by D. Pelzer, seconded by W. Barker: to approve the minutes of April 22, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC13/14.80 Welcome to new Faculty Council Members

R. Singer welcomed the following new members who start their term on Faculty Council in July 2014: Sophia Stone (Biology), Liz Fitting (Sociology), Louise Spiteri (Information Management), Hossam Ali-Hassan (School of Business), Peter O'Brien (Classics), and Dominic Groulx (Mechanical Engineering). New members in attendance were reminded that they are welcome to participate in discussions at this meeting, but they cannot vote.

R. Singer thanked the following Faculty Council Members for agreeing to serve for an additional term: John Kozey (three year term), Stephen Kimber (two year term) and Dian Patterson (two year term).

R. Singer introduced the DAGS representative Mahbubar Raman (VP Academic and Acting President) whose term on Faculty Council began May 2014. Andrew Bucci (Senator) will also be serving on Faculty Council but was not present at this meeting.

R. Singer introduced Dr. Marty Leonard, who will begin her term as the Dean of Graduate Studies in September.

FC 13/14.81 Reports

i) Dean (B. Boudreau)

a) Convocation Stats – B. Boudreau reported that in the May 2014 Convocation ceremonies there were 53 PhD degrees, 501 Master's degrees and 10 graduate diplomas awarded. The largest number of PhD degrees was from the Faculty of Science, while the largest number of master's degrees was from the Faculty of Management. There were 17 convocation ceremonies, and B. Boudreau encouraged all members to attend future ceremonies for their home Faculty. The President and Provost have agreed to have the Dalhousie Doctoral Prize presented to recipients in future convocation ceremonies.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

a) NS Graduate Scholarship – D. Pelzer advised that the review process for this competition went very well. Despite the diverse areas of expertise of the various reviewers, the rankings were extraordinarily close. D. Pelzer thanked members for their service on the review committee and noted that official letters of thanks have been sent out and were copied to line Deans. Offers were made mid-June to 61 master's students and 28 PhD students, and nine offers were made for the international scholarship. Students have until Friday June 27 to accept. A second competition will be announced with an application deadline of July 14, as surplus funds are available from the government. These surplus funds will support one-year scholarships for master's students and two-year scholarships for PhD students. Students who began their program in September 2013 or January 2014 will be eligible to apply. D. Pelzer thanked members in advance for their service on the supplemental scholarship review committee. It is expected that about 15 scholarships will be awarded to master's students and about 15 scholarships will be awarded to PhD students.

A discussion followed in which it was stressed that departments will have to start thinking now about recruiting students for next year so that Dalhousie is able to allocate its full quota of scholarships. The deadline for next year's competition is December 1, and that will be for students admitted for May 2015 and September 2015. A second competition will be held in February 2015 for students being admitted for September 2015 and January 2016. Departments are encouraged to nominate students who hold other funding, as they can receive honorary scholarships which could allow master's students to receive funding during the 2nd year of the scholarship, and PhD students to receive funding in the 4th year of the scholarship.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

a) PDF Appreciation Day – E. Denovan-Wright reported that the PDF event held on June 20 was a great success. Approximately 125 PDFs plus their supervisors indicated that they would be attending, and about 120 actually attended. There were about 25 children in attendance, making it a fun family event. The event provided a great opportunity to get this diverse group together to meet and mingle. A research day is being scheduled for the Fall with the assistance of the DPS.

b) PDF Unionization – E. Denovan-Wright reported that the Public Service Alliance of Canada has approached PDFs about unionizing, and a certification drive has begun. HR will be following the progress. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

c) Academic Integrity Update – E. Denovan-Wright reported that an online module has been created in consultation with the Writing Centre. All incoming students will be required to complete the module on their own before they arrive at Dalhousie. This practice will ensure that they are receiving common messaging regarding appropriate academic integrity behaviour. The online module would take about an hour to complete. The module has been reviewed by Academic Integrity Officers from all Faculties, and some revisions have been made based on their feedback. The module will be sent to members of Faculty Council for review. The aim is to have the module in place by October 2014.

iv) PDF Report (Olga Theou)

a) PDF Appreciation Day – O. Theou concurred that the event was well attended. Organizers would like to see more Supervisors attend the event next year.

b) PDF Research Day – O. Theou reported that this event will be held on October 10. Organizers plan to have PDFs give three-minute presentations on their research. The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Paula Stephan from Georgia State University. A panel discussion is also planned. Members were asked to contact Olga if they knew any recent PDFs who are now working in non-academic jobs.

v) DAGS (Mahbubur Rahman)

a) By-election – M. Rahman advised that the DAGS President resigned, and that a by-election will take place in the next couple of weeks to elect a new President.

b) Budget – M. Rahman advised that DAGS has passed their budget. The budget has allowed an increase in travel grants from \$100 to \$200.

FC 13/14.82 Concept Paper – PhD in Agriculture

R. Singer welcomed Dian Patterson and Dave Burton to the meeting and invited them to provide the rationale for the PhD Program in Agriculture. It was noted that the concept paper has been reviewed by APCC and by SAPRC, as those committees will not be meeting again until September 2014 and neither FGS nor Senate wanted to delay the process until the Fall.

D. Patterson explained that the Faculty already has a strong research environment, and there is strong faculty support for the PhD program. At present, Dalhousie has the only Faculty of Agriculture in Canada that lacks a PhD Program.

D. Burton explained that the program name ‘PhD in Agriculture, Food and Environment’ was selected to represent the diverse areas in agriculture. The Faculty currently has a master’s program that is faculty-wide, and the PhD program would follow the same structure. The PhD program would be administered by the Faculty of Agriculture’s Graduate Studies Coordinator and the Graduate Studies committee. Establishing a PhD program would allow more advanced training of highly qualified personnel. PhD students could act as teaching assistants in master’s and undergraduate courses, and faculty would gain experience supervising PhD students, all of which would help build the faculty’s research capacity.

A discussion followed in which members questioned the number of courses students would be required to take in the PhD program. D. Patterson responded that feedback has been received that they should consider decreasing the number of required courses and allowing students to take specialized courses that are relevant to their area of study.

R. Singer thanked D. Patterson and D. Burton for their summary. There were no further questions.

It was moved by B. Boudreau, seconded by H. Whitehead: that Faculty Council endorse the recommendation from SAPRC that the proposers of the concept paper for the PhD in Agriculture proceed to a full program proposal. The motion carried.

FC 13/14.83 Credit for Qualifying Year (B. Boudreau)

B. Boudreau advised members that, at present, students taking courses in a qualifying year cannot count those credits towards a graduate degree. If students do not do well in a qualifying year it is easier to dismiss them than if they are in a graduate program. However, if the student is successful in the course, it was proposed that they should be able to count that course towards their degree requirements if they continue into a graduate program.

D. Pelzer pointed out that MPHEC has regulations regarding reductions of program requirements, but questioned whether the credit could be treated as a transfer credit.

When the issue of fees was brought up, B. Boudreau responded that students in program-fee programs would still be required to pay the full program fees.

It was moved by D. Patterson, seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council recommend to SLT that the qualifying-year policy be amended to remove the following line from section 5.7.6 of the Graduate Calendar “Because it is a prerequisite, a qualifying program cannot be used to reduce the length of a subsequent regular graduate program”. The motion carried.

FC13/14.84 FGS Faculty Council Vice-Chair Voting Status

R. Singer explained that the current terms of reference are vague with respect to the voting status of the Vice-Chair.

A brief discussion followed in which members said the only concern would be if administration on Council had higher representation than regular elected members, which isn't a concern on this Council.

It was moved by W. Barker, seconded by A. Fenety: that Faculty Council approve the revision to the Faculty Council terms of reference to include the Vice-Chair as a voting member, when the Vice-Chair is not acting in the Chair Role. The motion carried.

FC13/14.85 E-Vote Results & Policy for Remote PhD Defences (E. Denovan-Wright)

E. Denovan-Wright reported that 22 members voted in favour of the policy, one member voted against, and one member abstained. Concerns raised during the e-vote centred on when there would be exceptions made. E. Denovan-Wright assured members that the policy is not meant to preclude special circumstances.

A discussion followed in which members asked if remote participation could be extended to the audience. Other concerns mentioned by members included intellectual property and contracts with industry partners requiring closed defences, the thesis embargo process, and the requirement for a thesis to be made “public” versus a thesis being accessible “globally” via the online institutional repository.

E. Denovan-Wright advised that she’d like to strike a committee to look at the various scenarios, as well as resource needs and legal considerations. She will report back to Faculty Council in the Fall.

FC13/14.86 Thanks to Outgoing Members of Faculty Council and Outgoing Dean of FGS

i) **Outgoing Members** - R. Singer extended his thanks to outgoing members on behalf of FGS. Members received an FGS mug as a token of appreciation. Outgoing members are: Sara Faridi, Stephen Parcell, Greg Scherkoske, Deborah Tamlyn, Hal Whitehead, Yonggan Zhao, Rohan Maitzen and Joyline Makani (library representative).

R. Singer thanked the outgoing DAGS Representatives: Ana Vidovic, Ishika Sharma, and Brett Taylor.

Thanks were also extended to Heather Andreas for filling a six-month term during Norman Schepp’s sabbatical leave, and to Liz Fitting who filled a six-month term during Emma Whelan’s sabbatical leave.

ii) **Outgoing Dean** – R. Singer thanked Bernie Boudreau for his three years of service as Dean of FGS and for his efforts in spearheading the following initiatives during his tenure: the new governance structure for Faculty Council, lobbying for the NS Graduate Scholarships, the 3MT competitions, graduate orientation programs, and the revamp of the FGS website.

FC13/14.87 Other Business

i) **Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee** - R. Singer advised that a nomination has been received for Dr. Dominic Groulx, Mechanical Engineering, for a three year term.

It was moved by D. Pelzer, seconded by P. Bodorik: that the nominee for the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee be approved. The motion carried.

ii) **APCC Members for 2014/15** – R. Singer advised that there are three vacancies to fill on APCC for 2014/15. Continuing elected members are W. Barker, A. Fenety, S. Kimber, and N. Schepp. When asked for volunteers to serve on this committee, D. Patterson, H. Ali-Hassan and M. Gibson volunteered.

iii) Faculty Council Vacancies for 2014/15 – R. Singer reported that there are still four vacancies on Faculty Council. Ideally, representatives are being sought from the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Science.

R. Singer encouraged members to ask their colleagues if they would be willing to serve. It was pointed out that not only do members have a voice on Council, but they also act as the ranking committee for the NS Graduate Scholarships.

FC13/14.88 Next meeting - Tuesday, September 23, 2014, Lord Dalhousie Room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55p.m.

R. Singer, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary